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October 2, 1963

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The President  
The White House  
Washington 25, D.C.

My dear Mr. President:

If the statements in the accompanying clipping from the Denver Rocky Mountain News of today are even half true, I think that you should move vigorously to correct such a ghastly situation.

Very respectfully yours,

*Natt B. Burbank*

Natt B. Burbank  
Superintendent of Schools

NBB:er

Enclosure

(EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE *Vietnam Public Opinion*)

ences a "Seven Days in May" it will come from the CIA and not the Pentagon," one U.S. official commented caustically.

("Seven Days in May" is a fictional account of a military coup that took over the U.S. Government.)

CIA "spooks" (a universal term for secret agents here) have penetrated every branch of the American community in Saigon, until non-spook Americans here almost seem to be suffering a CIA psychosis.

### Angry Officer

An American field officer with a distinguished combat career speaks angrily about "that man at headquarters in Saigon wearing a colonel's uniform." He means the man is a CIA agent, and he can't understand what he is doing at U.S. military headquarters here, unless it is spying on other Americans.

Another American officer, talking about the CIA acidly commented: "You'd think they'd have learned something from Cuba but apparently they didn't."

Few people other than Richardson and his close aides know the actual CIA strength here, but a widely used figure is 600. Many are clandestine agents known only to a few of their fellow spooks.

Even Richardson is a man

much in Saigon. He is said to be a former OSS officer, and to have served with distinction in the CIA in the Philippines.

A surprising number of the spooks are known to be involved in their ghostly trade and some make no secret of it.

### 'More Spooks'

"There are spooks in the U.S. Information Service (USIS), in the U.S. Operations Mission (USOM), in every aspect of American official and commercial life here," one official—presumably a non-spook—said.

"They represent a tremendous power and total unaccountability to anyone," he added.

Coupled with the ubiquitous secret police of Ngo Dinh Nhu, a surfeit of spooks has given Saigon an oppressive police state atmosphere.

The Nhu-Richardson relationship is a subject of lively speculation. The CIA continues to pay the special forces which conducted brutal raids on Buddhist temples Aug. 21, although in fairness it should be pointed out that the CIA is paying these goons for the war against Communist guerrillas, not Buddhist bonzes (priests).

Nevertheless, on the first of every month, the CIA dutifully hands over a quarter million American dollars to pay these special forces.

By RICHARD STARNES  
Scripps-Howard Staff Writer

SAIGON, Oct. 1 — The story of the Central Intelligence Agency's role in South Viet Nam is a dismal chronicle of bureaucratic arrogance, obstinate disregard of orders, and unrestrained thirst for power.

Twice the CIA flatly refused to carry out instructions from Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge, according to a high U.S. source here.

### Lodge Blocked

In one of these instances the CIA frustrated a plan of action Lodge brought with him from Washington, because the agency disagreed with it.

This led to a dramatic confrontation between Lodge and John Richardson, chief of the huge CIA apparatus here. Lodge failed to move Richardson, and the dispute was bucked back to Washington. State Sec. Dean Rusk and CIA Chief John McCone were unable to resolve the conflict, and the matter is now reported to be awaiting settlement by President Kennedy.

### Report to JFK

Defense Sec. Robert McNamara and Gen. Maxwell Taylor, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, ended their inspection tour and flew homeward Tuesday to report to the President.

The CIA development is expected to be covered in McNamara's report to Mr. Kennedy.

Other American agencies here are incredibly bitter about the CIA.

"If the U.S. ever experi-

(Concluded on Page 3)

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington 25, D. C.

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